
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Veloria, Campbell, Cody, Pennington, Cox, Kessler, Woods, Kenney, Romero, Bush, Keiser, Schoesler, Armstrong, Clements, Delvin, Santos, McIntire, O'Brien, D. Schmidt, Tokuda, Haigh, Edwards, Darneille, Schual-Berke and Talcott

Read first time 01/17/2001. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives
6 of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The Philippine Islands was a territory of the United
9 States until July 4, 1946, and the United States had control over
10 Philippine nationals and its internal affairs. The Philippines
11 Commonwealth had no function in matters of foreign affairs and
12 could not declare war nor surrender its forces; and

13 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1941, U.S. President Roosevelt issued a
14 Military Order and invoked his powers under Section 2(a)(12) of
15 the Philippine Independence Act (P.L. No. 77-127 Section 10(a)) to
16 "call and order into the service of the Armed Forces of the United
17 States...all of the organized military forces of the government of
18 the Commonwealth of the Philippines"; and

19 WHEREAS, World War II is remembered as The Good War that
20 President Roosevelt claimed to have defended the great human

1 freedoms against the encroachment and attack of the dark forces of
2 despotism; and

3 WHEREAS, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the
4 American flag and under the direction and control of United States
5 military leaders pursuant to President Roosevelt's July 1941
6 Military Order; and

7 WHEREAS, Shortly after the war in 1946, the U.S. Congress
8 passed the Rescission Act which specifically mandates that
9 services rendered by Filipino World War II veterans "...shall not
10 be deemed to have been active military, naval, or air service for
11 the purposes of any law of the United States conferring rights,
12 privileges or benefits..."; and

13 WHEREAS, The legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission
14 Act denies U.S. military status and benefits to those veterans who
15 fought under the command of officers of the U.S. Armed Forces in
16 the Philippines; and

17 WHEREAS, The significant and adverse impact of the 1946
18 Rescission Act is its unjust discrimination against Filipino
19 soldiers of World War II by denying them eligibility for equal
20 benefits administered by the department of veterans affairs; and

21 WHEREAS, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for
22 denial of full U.S. veterans status while the soldiers of more
23 than sixty-six other U.S. allied countries, who were similarly
24 inducted into the service of the armed forces of the United States
25 during World War II, were granted full U.S. veterans status; and

26 WHEREAS, The United States government has yet to fully restore
27 the rights, privileges, and benefits guaranteed, then taken away
28 from Filipino soldiers of WWII; and

29 WHEREAS, The gallantry, loyalty, and sacrifices of Filipino
30 veterans of WWII, who fought for freedom and democracy in the
31 Armed Forces of the United States, deserve recognition and their
32 honor and dignity restored; and

33 WHEREAS, There is no pending legislation in the U.S. Congress
34 that will restore full United States veterans status to Filipino
35 WWII veterans;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
37 President and Congress of the United States during the First
38 Session of the 106th Congress take action necessary to amend the

1 1946 Rescission Act and honor our country's moral obligation to
2 restore these Filipino veterans full United States veterans status
3 with the military benefits that they deserve;

4 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
5 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the
6 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
8 Congress from the State of Washington.

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